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REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed July 28, 2006, Applicants have withdrawn claims and have amended claims. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1, 3, 7-8, 13-17, 19-22, and 24-33 were pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claims 17, 19, 20, and 26-33 have been canceled. Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute at least some of the canceled claims and similar claims in one or more related Applications. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 7-8, 13-16, 21-22, and 24-25 are now pending in this Application. Claims 1, 3, and 13 are independent claims.

Claims 7-8 were objected to due to informalities in claim 7. Applicants have amended claim 7 as recommended by the Office Action. No new matter has been added, and no new issues have been raised. No search is required.

Allowed Claims

Claims 31 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 31 was also objected to due to informalities. Applicants have elected to amend independent claim 1 to include all the additional limitations found in dependant claim 31 as well as the intervening dependent claims. Applicants have also corrected the informalities as recommended by the Office Action. No new matter has been added, and no new issues have been raised. No search is required. Accordingly, claim 1 is now in allowable condition.

Because claims 21-22 depend from and further limit claim 1, claims 21-22 are in allowable condition for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

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Claims 32 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 32 was also objected to due to informalities. Applicants have elected to amend independent claim 3 to include all the additional limitations found in dependant claim 32 as well as the intervening dependent claims. Applicants have also corrected the informalities as recommended by the Office Action. No new matter has been added, and no new issues have been raised. No search is required. Accordingly, claim 3 is now in allowable condition.

Because claims 7-8 and 24-25 depend from and further limit claim 3, claims 7-8 and 24-25 are in allowable condition for at least the same reasons as claim 3.

Claims 33 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 33 was also objected to due to informalities. Applicants have elected to amend independent claim 13 to include all the additional limitations found in dependant claim 33 as well as the intervening dependent claims. Applicants have also corrected the informalities as recommended by the Office Action. No new matter has been added, and no new issues have been raised. No search is required. Accordingly, claim 13 is now in allowable condition.

Because claims 14-16 depend from and further limit claim 13, claims 14-16 are in allowable condition for at least the same reasons as claim 13.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner

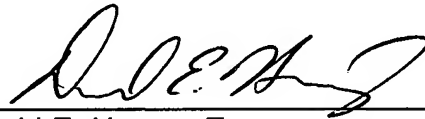
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believes, after this Amendment, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicants' Representative at the number below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this Amendment, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3661.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-2900, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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